

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/869,668	FITZGERALD ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sudhaker B. Patel, D.Sc.Tech.	1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/24/03.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,9-11,14,16 and 17.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/24/03
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Applicants' communication paper dated 11/24/03 is acknowledged. Applicants have cancelled claims 5,8,12,13,15, amended claims 1,2,3,7,9-11,16,17. The claims as now presented are definite and are having clarity. The claims under consideration are the claims 1-4,6,7,9-11,14,16,17, which are renumbered as claims 1-12.
3. Applicants' amendments to claim, cancellation of claims 5, 8,12,13,15 limit the subject matter related to election of invention of subject matter of Group I only. Therefore, the restriction/election is considered proper, and it has been made FINAL.
4. Applicants' above stated cancellation, amendments to claims together with their remarks and arguments are sufficient to overcome the rejections made under 35 U.S.C.112 paragraph second. Therefore, these rejections are now withdrawn.
5. Applicants have deleted "preventions", cancelled claim 13, and amended claims 1,9,10,11,17. Therefore, the rejections made under 35 U.S.C.112 paragraph one are now withdrawn.
6. The closest prior art of record ref. Kluender et al (WO9615096) teaches derivatives of 4-biarybutaric or 5-biarylpentanoic acids as MMPs inhibitors. Applicants have amended claim 7 to present the instantly claimed compounds, which are not encompassed by the reference '096. Thus, the ref. '096 does not indicate or suggest to arriving at the instant invention.
7. Therefore, the instant invention is deemed to be novel and patentably distinct.
8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
9. Examiner appreciates the references provided on 11/24/03. A signed copy of the PTO Form 1449 is enclosed with this communication for applicants' record.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sudhaker B. Patel, D.Sc.Tech. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0671.
The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00 pm (Monday-Thursday).
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Mukund J. Shah can be reached on (571) 272 0674 or Sr. Examiner Mr. Richard Raymond at (571) 272 0673 or Mr. James Wilson at (571) 272-0661.

The assigned centralized fax number for the organization/USPTO for processing of this application or its proceedings is (703)-872-9306.

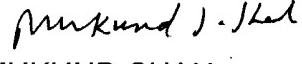
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 1235.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sudhaker B. Patel, D.Sc. Tech.

March 12, 2004.



MUKUND SHAH
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EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1624